



Volume XI No.12 December 1995

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Merry Christmas



KC9LC Leaves Post

The news came as a surprise to club members when Randy Shake, KC9LC, announced his resignation from the position of club president. He made the announcement during the November MARC meeting. Randy is moving to Blacksburg, Virginia, a town of about 25,000, to take a new position with Federal Mogul. He's been with the automotive supply company for 22 years. Randy has taken the position of Administrative Services Manager. He'll be in charge of accounting, purchasing, data processing and customer service. Randy and his wife Pat will be leaving lots of family and friends behind as they move east.

Randy expects to keep in touch with club members via 40-meters. "This is one of the best clubs I have been involved with," Randy said. "I'd like to set up a schedule on 40-meters and keep in touch with club members once I get some antennas put up."

The Shake family is looking at a large house in Christiansburg, Virginia, about thirty miles south of Roanoke. Virginia Tech is nearby. The house they have ed out sits near the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Randy says the yard has lots of room for towers and antennas. According to wife Pat, the family will move to Virginia after the Christmas holidays.

Editors note: We wish Randy and his family much success. Thanks for leading the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club to a new level.

Free Donuts

Now that I've got your attention. Join us for a morning of fellowship and toast a glass of milk or juice to one of the greatest amateur radio clubs in America. We'll have plenty of coffee and donuts to go around. Since there is no testing immediately following the meeting we'll have more time to socialize, view past field day tapes and get to know the people that make the Mid-State ARC a growing club. We might even dust off the rigs in the radio room.

Club Meeting
Dec. 16th 8 a.m.

Local Hams Honored

Two Mid-State ARC members were honored in ceremonies held December 6th in Danville, Indiana. JR Osborne, KB9HSE and Jack Parker, NT9J were awarded Certificates of Recognition for "devoted and valuable service rendered to Hendricks County, Danville, Indiana." The awards were part of an annual Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society meeting. For the past three years the county commissioners and sheriff have recognized local amateur radio operators for their participation in weather nets and other community public safety efforts.

Sheriff presents awards

Hendricks county Sheriff, Roy Waddell presented over two dozen awards to amateur radio operators and members of the U.S. Fire District. Many of the hams volunteer their time and efforts to public safety activities in that U.S. Fire District.

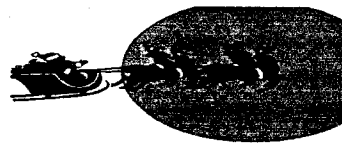
Jay Wright, N9INT, has helped to coordinate the Hendricks county program over the past three years. Through Jay's participation many of the Hendricks county hams have held membership in the Mid-State ARC. It's programs like this that prove that radio waves as well as amateur radio operators can work well, beyond county lines. Congratulations to all.

**NOVICE/TECH
CLASS DATE SET
Begins Feb. 12th
Runs 8-10 Weeks**

N9YLJ Elected President

Terry Grubb, N9YLJ, became the new club president at the November meeting following the sudden resignation of Randy Shake. Randy was forced to vacate his position following a company promotion to Virginia. Terry will fill the remaining ten month term. The club constitution is being studied to determine the proper method of filling the position of vice president. Terry says he welcomes the new challenge and looks forward to leading the club through 1996.

It's going to be a busy year for Terry. He just became the father of a baby girl born three days after his promotion to club president. Terry was first licensed in April of 1995. He looks forward to getting to know everyone in the club and bringing new ideas to the club's already active schedule.



Christmas Messages

Sending seasons

greetings to friends and relatives around the world just got easier for residents of the Masonic Home. Thanks to the efforts of several Mid-State ARC members the Franklin nursing home residents were able to send free messages to loved ones via amateur radio. Bob Doles, WB9AYB and his band of elves contacted the home and collected the official ARRL message forms for transmission around the world. Bob was assisted by Walt Howard, N9FWF; Charles Francis, KB9KDJ; Marilyn Parton, N9TUK; and Vernie Parton, AA9LR. Bob says they need help in forwarding the messages to locations around the world. Contact Bob Doles if you have experience with the national traffic net or have "phone" privileges. Many of the messages can be passed locally into northern Indianapolis and the suburbs by someone with an Indianapolis based telephone number. See Bob at the December meeting.

By Mike Rosemark **KA9VMR** NWS Meteorologist

Advertising for Old Man Winter

Winter weather brings numerous hazards to central Indiana, usually in the form of freezing or frozen precipitation, strong winds, and cold temperatures. The National Weather Service (NWS) issues various products, in addition to routine forecasts, to inform the public of these hazards. The following are some of the most common public watches, warnings, and advisories that the NWS will issue when Old Man Winter comes to visit:

Winter Storm Watch: Conditions are favorable for hazardous winter weather which may include heavy snow, blizzard conditions, freezing rain or sleet, and dangerous wind chill temperatures. The watches are usually issued 12 to 36 hours in advance.

Winter Storm Warning: Hazardous winter weather conditions that pose a threat to life and property are imminent or occurring. This product is usually issued when a combination of the following is expected: heavy snow, freezing precipitation, sleet, and strong winds.

The following warnings are issued when a single weather hazard is expected:

Blizzard Warning: Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 mph or greater will accompany considerable falling or blowing snow.

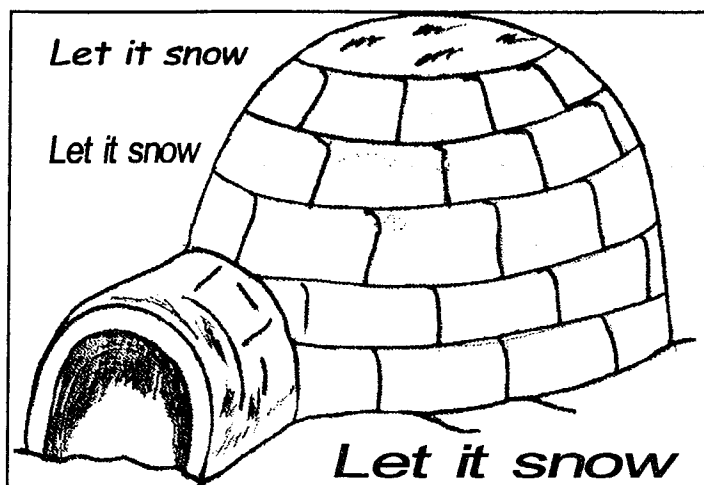
Visibilities will be reduced to around a 1/4 mile or less much of the time. Dangerous wind chills often accompany blizzard conditions.

Heavy Snow Warning: Snowfall of 6 inches will occur in less than 12 hours or 8 inches in less than 24 hours.

Ice Storm Warning: Accumulation of 1/4 inch or more of freezing rain will occur or at least a 1/2 inch of sleet.

Advisories are issued when hazards don't meet criteria for a warning but are still considered significant.

Winter Weather Advisory: Two or more of the following are occurring or imminent: snow, freezing rain/drizzle, sleet, and blowing or drifting snow.



Snow Advisory: Snowfall of 2-5 inches is expected.

Freezing Rain/Drizzle, Sleet Advisory: Accumulations of less than 1/4 inch of freezing precipitation is expected or less than 1/2 inch of sleet.

Blowing and or Drifting Snow Advisory: Considerable blowing and or drifting snow across roads will hamper travel.

Note: The criteria used to trigger warnings and advisories vary from region to region.

New Arrivals

Christmas came early for two Mid-State ARC families. Congratulations to Dennis (KB9HPQ) and Sarah Parton on the birth of their sixth child last month. Mackenzie Rose Parton was born at 10:22 a.m. November 18th. She weighed in at 7 pounds and 10 ounces. Dennis reports that she was 20 inches long. The baby was born during the November club meeting. Dennis missed the meeting due to the arrival of his new daughter. The club has waived the doctors excuse for his absense.

Just three days later two other club members experienced the same joy of child birth. Congratulations to Terry (N9YLJ) and Angela Grubb, (KB9LJN) on the birth of their first child. Carrie Elizabeth Grubb was delivered at 4:02 p.m. November 21st. Terry said she has lots of black hair, is 21 inches long and weighed in at 7 pounds 15 ounces.

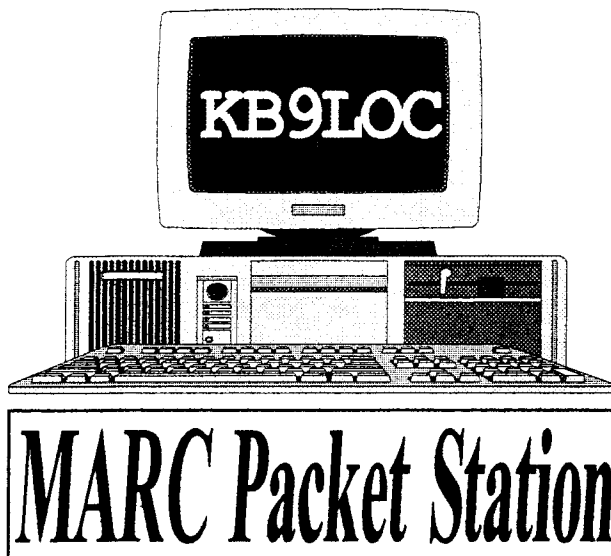
All couples report the mothers, babies and even the dads doing fine. Reports that the new girls were getting code keys for Christmas are unconfirmed.

Packet Made Easy

By Brian Smith, WW9A

Let's start with NetNodes 101. By the term NetNode, I refer to any of the family of compatible nodes including TheNet, NET/ROM, G8BPQ and K-net. K-net is the newest and most user friendly of the systems, in that, using the new fireware for either the KPC-3 or KPC-9612, Kantronics has allowed the user to both run a node and terminal connection simultaneously. Systems such as G8BPQ require that a computer be on for the node to operate, while systems like TheNet and NET/ROM require that an EPROM be burnt with the callsign, alias, info and port date burnt into the chip. This means that every time something on the node changes, a new EPROM must be burnt. A K-net node only requires a computer to be running for the initial setup and then the node can run independently without having the computer hooked up. The main difference between a NetNode and a Ka-node is that Ka-Nodes only ``know`` their neighbors. If a node isn't heard direct, it won't show up on the node list. However, NetNodes ``know`` routes. In other words, you can connect to your local node and tell it to connect to a node on its node list. The node will, in turn, know which node to connect with to find the destination. The user is unaware of changes of frequency or baud rate. The network does all of the switching on its own. One thing that you will want to remember when ``node-hopping`` is that certain networks aren't meant for users, but rather for BBS forwarding and other types of links. For example, the network on 223.600 MHz in southern Indiana is for forwarding between BBSs such as KK9G, WW9A, WD9AGK and N8GTC. When a user gets onto the network and connects across the state into another BBS, it brings forwarding in southern Indiana to a standstill. In a nutshell, that is the

theory between NetNodes and how they operate. Next month, I hope to have a description of the command on NetNodes and some tips on how to use them more effectively. Until next month, 73 and Happy Packeting! -WW9A



Connections made easy:

Location: Johnson County EOC Amateur Radio Room

Frequency: 145.63 MHz

Purpose: To read and leave E-mail for club members

To be used for Health & Welfare traffic in emergencies

Can be used as a Digipeter into WW9A and other area packet nodes

Connect by typing:

KB9LOC-1 or

KB9LOC-5 or

EOCMBX or

JOCO

When connected type:

LL10 to see last ten items in mailbox or type a question mark (?) to get commands

Christmas Comes Early For Mid-State ARC



The Mid-State ARC received an early present in the form of a new 16-foot flatbed trailer. The dual axle trailer was purchased by Johnson County Emergency Management Director Sam Williams. The new trailer is the foundation for a 38-foot Rohn crank-up tower. The entire set up is designed to give the amateurs and county law enforcement officials a quick and easy way to set up emergency communications. The project was approved by the county commissioners with the knowledge that the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club will design and maintain the portable tower and trailer. Preliminary plans call for the unit to have a winch to pull the tower into place and a separate winch to raise the tower. The trailer is being designed with an aluminum storage box for antennas, coax and spare parts.

Portable power too

The 4.5 Kilowatt generator used during Field Day will be attached to the trailer. The mobile trailer/tower will be used for Field Day and other community projects like the Firecracker Run in Greenwood and the Flat Rock Run. The mobile communications tower will give the county a backup tower in the event that one of their communications towers is damaged. Total cost for the project is expected to reach \$3000.00. The cost of the project is being underwritten by Sam Williams and the Emergency Management Agency. RACES Director Joe Vergara, KA9ZPA, assistant director Bill Brinkmann, KA9ZMU, and ARES Director Vernon Gill, N9QBO will develop a resource list of club members who have a trailer hitch and vehicle that can pull the trailer to the county events. If you have the proper equipment contact one of these people to volunteer.

December 1995

Space Hams

Following a successful lift off and docking with the space station Mir, the Space Shuttle Atlantis is safely back home. Mission STS-74 was launched in early November with five crew members on board. All are amateur radio operators. They not only carried flowers and candy to the Russian Cosmonauts, but amateur radio gear, too. NASA astronaut James Halsell, KC5RNI, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Chris Hadfield, KC5RNJ, both received their licenses just prior to the launch. They both participated in Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) activities during the STS-74 mission. Halsell is the shuttle's pilot and Hadfield is a mission specialist. Shuttle Atlantis's commander for STS-74 was Ken Cameron, KB5AWP, who used Amateur Radio from Atlantis during STS-37 in April 1991 and from Discovery during STS-56 in April 1993. This was the third mission Cameron has flown where the entire crew are licensed radio amateurs. Other STS-74 crew members are Mission Specialist Jerry Ross, N5SCW, who was also a member of STS-37, and who operated ham radio aboard the STS-55 Columbia in April/May 1993; and Mission Specialist Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, who used ham radio aboard Columbia during STS-58 in October/November 1993.

Newsline "95

Six Meter Net Growing

Since its inception in October the Johnson county 6-meter net has continued to grow in size. Each Sunday at 8 p.m. RACES members take to the airwaves to check their 6-meter radios. The 53.150 MHz repeater in Greenwood is the official net repeater. The purpose of the net is to test radio equipment and practice proper emergency net handling procedures. The net has grown from twenty check-ins the first week to almost three dozen check-ins each week. And, like radio waves, the check-ins know no boundaries. Each week amateur radio operators from around Indiana join the net. The net is open to all amateur radio operators.

SUNDAY NIGHT NETS

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

7 p.m. 146.835 MHz

6-Meter Net 8 p.m. 53.150 MHz

Test Fee Increase Coming !

Effective January 1, 1996, the maximum allowable reimbursement fee for an amateur operator license examination will be \$6.07. The FCC set this amount based on the Consumer Price Index between September 1994 and September 1995 and it will be an increase from the current \$5.90.

Volunteer examiners and volunteer examiner coordinators may charge examinees for out of pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating reexaminations for amateur operator licenses. The amount of any such reimbursement fee from any one examinee for any one examination session, regardless of the number of elements administered, must not exceed the maximum allowable fee.

ARRL Letter Nov.'95

Local Policy :

According to VEC Dave Wendt, KA9OOH, the Mid-State ARC Test Team will begin charging \$6.05 when testing resumes in March. He said, "The ARRL VE Coordinator needs the extra fifteen cents per applicant to remain a self supporting service of the ARRL."



Field Day '95 was a success thanks to the efforts of over 30 amateur radio operators. It took a team effort to put the beam, tents, radios and antennas together for the weekend event in June. Field Day 1996 will be held in Camp Atterbury. -NT9J.

VE TEAM

November Test Results

John Cooper Jr.	Flat Rock	E
Dmitri Baraban	Bloomington	N
Eric Schmitz	Bloomington	T+
Dan Wilhelm	Nashville	T
Lori Steury	W. Lafayette	T
William Roe	Martinsville	T

Congratulations to all!

Per: Dave Wendt, KA9OOH, VE Team Coordinator

No Testing 'Til March

Like a big sleeping bear the grumpy members of the Mid-State ARC VE testing team will be hibernating until spring. Following a busy year of monthly testing sessions the team will take a break until March 1996. There is good news for code ready test takers. You can still test from December through February at two other Indianapolis test sites. They are:

Thompson\RCA Test Team

3rd Wednesday of each month

At Naval Avionics 6400 E. 21st Street

6:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Pete Zirkin 259-7610

Red Cross Club

December 16th 9 a.m.

441 E. 10th Street

Pre-registration preferred.

Normally test last Saturday of even months

Contact: Joe Cirillo 291-3569

Good Luck. See you in Franklin in March!

Shortwave Sked

Finding updated schedules for shortwave listening is getting easier thanks to the FCC. The International Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission has added up-to-date schedules for FCC -licensed shortwave broadcast stations to its Internet services.

Schedules for these stations change at least twice a year. The FCC said that because of the frequency and complexity of these changes, use of the Internet make distribution of schedules more efficient for both shortwave broadcasters and the public. Data available include station operating parameters, seasonal operational frequency schedules, international coordinated frequency schedules, current issues and announcements and other material.

Info on World Wide Web

The information is available on the World Wide Web at http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/International/WWW/HF_broadcasting/hf.html

Users also can access the FCC Welcome Page at <http://www.fcc.gov/Welcome.html> and follow the links to HF Broadcasting. Finally, the files can be retrieved using the FCC's file transfer protocol server: <ftp.fcc.gov>(.)Log in as "anonymous" and use your e-mail address as a password.

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Experimental balloons filled the skies over Central Indiana this fall when local hams flew portable 2-meter and Amateur TV transmitters on high altitude flights into eastern Indiana and southwestern Ohio.

No Slow CW

The FCC has denied three requests to lower the Morse code requirement for the General Class Amateur radio operator license. The requests, in the form of letters, came from three Technician Plus class licensees. All three asked that the 13 wpm Morse code requirement for the General Class license be lowered to 5 wpm. Two of them also asked that the Technician Plus operator license class be eliminated and that holders of Technician Plus licenses be granted General Class operator privileges.

Insufficient evidence

In an Order released October 19, 1995, the FCC said "The current amateur service license structure and examination requirements were developed in accordance with the expressed desires of the amateur service community through numerous rule making proceedings that generated many thousands of comments."

"The amateur service community indicated on each occasion that it strongly desires to preserve communications by telegraphy. After considering the views expressed in those proceedings, the Commission adopted the rules that are codified in Part 97: (of the FCC Rules). "The requests have not presented sufficient evidence to justify revisiting these matters at this time," the FCC said.

RACES Job Open

Citing increased professional responsibilities, Joe Vergara, KA9ZPA, is resigning from the position of Johnson County RACES Director, effective December 31, 1995. Joe was appointed by Johnson County Emergency Management Director Sam Williams two years ago. During his tenure Joe arranged for the donation of fifteen six meter radios to RACES by the Indiana Gas Company. He helped organize Red Cross training classes for RACES members including first aid, CPR and damage assessment. If you are interested in filling the position contact Sam Williams at the county EOC at 736-9064.

1996 CLUB DUES:

Mid-State ARC Treasurer Vernin Gill, N9QBO, will begin accepting dues for the 1996 year at the December 16th meeting. The \$18.00 fee is payable via cash or check to the Mid-State ARC. Each club membership includes phone patch privileges in and around Johnson county, a monthly newsletter and occasionally a free donut and cup of coffee. All fees are used to maintain the club repeater and promote club activities. One goal being pursued in 1996 is the purchase of a new repeater and voice controller with additional room for auto-patches.

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Hollywood Hams- The topic of amateur radio is going "Hollywood", or, at least network tv. The Discovery Channel Network is producing a program featuring Amateur Radio and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT). It is scheduled for airing next spring. The program, set for around March 15, 1996, will be called "Eyes in the Sky", and is planned to be a two-hour evening special.

ARRL Letter 10/95



Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Post Office Box 836 Franklin, In. 46131

CLUB REPEATER: 146.835 MHz

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets at
8:00 AM the Third Saturday of each month
in the Johnson County Law Enforcement Bldg.

1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, In.

All are welcome to attend the meetings

President: Terry Grubb N9YLJ

Secretary: Kenneth Poe KB9JUM

Treasurer: Vernon Gill N9QBO

RACES: Joe Vergara KA9ZPA

ARES: Vernon Gill N9QBO

Editor: Jack Parker NT9J